

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 4, 2004

IN RE:)	
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF CELLCO	)	DOCKET NO.
PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS	)	03-00585
IN RE:)	
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION OF BELL SOUTH)	
MOBILITY LLC ; BELL SOUTH PERSONAL	)	DOCKET NO.
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC; CHATTANOOGA	)	03-00586
MSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP; COLLECTIVELY)	
d/b/a CINGULAR WIRELESS)	
IN RE:)	
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION SUBMITTED BY	)	DOCKET NO.
AT&T WIRELESS PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T WIRELESS	)	03-00587
IN RE:)	
PETITION FOR ARBITRATION	)	DOCKET NO.
OF T-MOBILE USA, INC	)	03-00588
IN RE:)	
PETITION OF SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P. d/b/a SPRINT	)	DOCKET NO.
PCS FOR ARBITRATION WITH TENNESSEE RURAL	)	03-00589
INDEPENDENT COALITION)	

**ORDER ACCEPTING ARBITRATION,
APPOINTING ARBITRATORS AND
APPOINTING PRE-ARBITRATION OFFICER**

These matters came before Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to Docket No. 03-00585, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 8, 2003.

Background

On November 6, 2003, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless; BellSouth Mobility LLC, BellSouth Personal Communications, LLC and Chattanooga MSA Limited Partnership, collectively

d/b/a Cingular Wireless; AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Wireless; and T-Mobile USA, Inc., each a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") provider, individually filed a Petition for Arbitration. Sprint Spectrum, L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS filed its Petition for Arbitration on November 7, 2003. Each petition was assigned a separate docket number upon being filed with the TRA. Each petition requests that the TRA assist in matters relating to the negotiation of an Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement between the aforementioned companies and members of the Tennessee Rural Independent Coalition ("ICO").¹ Each petition further explains that although the ICO comprises 21 separate companies, the negotiations have been conducted jointly. As such, the CMRS providers argue that it would be an unnecessary burden on the TRA to file individual petitions with each of the approximately 21 rural carriers.

On November 18, 2003, Verizon Wireless, on behalf of the CMRS providers and the ICOs jointly, filed a motion in Docket No. 03-00585 requesting that the TRA consolidate all of the Petitions for Arbitration filed with the TRA. The parties seek consolidation of Docket Nos. 03-00585, 03-00586, 03-00587, 03-00588 and 03-00589 such that the five petitions for Arbitration filed by Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, T-Mobile and Cingular, be combined into one arbitration proceeding.²

During the December 8, 2003 Authority Conference, Chairman Tate consolidated the individual dockets, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, to reduce administrative burdens on telecommunications carriers and conserve the resources of the TRA. Because the Verizon Wireless petition was the first of the five petitions to be filed, the remaining four dockets were consolidated with Docket No. 03-00585 for the purposes of resolving all of the arbitrations. Thereafter, the panel

¹ The ICO includes the following companies: Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc.; Ben Loman Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative; CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.; CenturyTel of Caliborne, Inc.; CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.; Concord Telephone Exchange, Inc.; Crockett Telephone Company, Inc.; DeKalb Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Humphreys County Telephone Company; Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.; Millington Telephone Company; North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Peoples Telephone Company; Tellico Telephone Company; Tennessee Telephone Company; Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative Corporation; United Telephone Company; West Tennessee Telephone Company, Inc.; and Yorkville Telephone Cooperative.

² Each of the five CMRS providers submitted a Statement of Support for the Joint Motion to Consolidate

assigned to Docket No. 03-00585 voted unanimously to accept the Petitions for Arbitration, appoint the Directors as Arbitrators and appoint General Counsel or his designee as the Pre-Arbitration Officer.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:


1. The Petitions for Arbitration filed by Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless; BellSouth Mobility LLC, BellSouth Personal Communications, LLC and Chattanooga MSA Limited Partnership, collectively d/b/a Cingular Wireless, AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Wireless; T-Mobile USA, Inc.; and Sprint Spectrum, L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS are accepted.

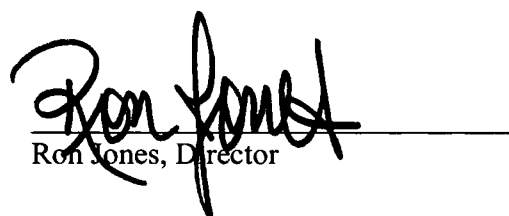
2. The Directors assigned to Docket No. 03-00585 shall serve as Arbitrators.

3. Because Docket Nos. 03-00585, 03-00586, 03-00587, 03-00588 and 03-00589 are consolidated, Docket Nos. 03-00586, 03-00587, 03-00588 and 03-00589 shall be deemed closed after entry of this Order. The record in Docket Nos. 03-00586, 03-00587, 03-00588 and 03-00589 shall be a part of the record in Docket No. 03-00585 and all future filings shall be entered under Docket No. 03-00585.

4. The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Pre-Arbitration Officer in this matter to hear preliminary matters prior to the Arbitration and to set a procedural schedule to completion.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman


Pat Miller, Director


Ron Jones, Director